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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ :	A1	(11) International Publication Number:	WO 95/09021	
A61M 5/315		(43) International Publication Date:		6 April 1995 (06.04.95)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK94/00361</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 27 September 1994 (27.09.94)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 1092/93 27 September 1993 (27.09.93) DK</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NOVO NORDISK A/S [DK/DK]; Novo Allé, DK-2880 Bagsværd (DK).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and</p> <p>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): POULSEN, Jens, Ulrik [DK/DK]; Ved Bommen 7, DK-2820 Gentofte (DK). LJUNGGREEN, Henrik [DK/DK]; Lauravej 23, 4. tv, DK-2500 Valby (DK). EJLERSEN, Henning, Munk [DK/DK]; Bueager 31, DK-2950 Vedbaek (DK). MUNK, Jens [DK/DK]; Terkelvej 4, DK-3660 Stenløse (DK). KLITMOSE, Lars, Peter [DK/DK]; Gardrehoejvej 20, DK-2820 Gentofte (DK). NIELSEN, Preben, Broskov [DK/DK]; Skt. Hansgade 4A, st. tv., DK-2200 Copenhagen N (DK). MIKKELSEN, Søren [DK/DK]; Noerrevej 2, DK-2750 Ballerup (DK). MØLLER-JENSEN, Jens [DK/DK]; Nyhavn 39, DK-1051 Copenhagen K (DK). HEGER, Anders [DK/DK]; Peblinge Dossering 18, DK-2200 Copenhagen N (DK).</p>		<p>(74) Agent: HANSEN, Einar, Tronier, Novo Nordisk A/S, Corporate Patents, Novo Allé, DK-2880 Bagsværd (DK).</p> <p>(81) Designated States: AM, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CZ, FI, GE, HU, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LT, LV, MD, MG, MN, MW, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SD, SI, SK, TJ, TT, UA, US, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).</p> <p>Published With international search report.</p>		
<p>(54) Title: DISPLACEMENT SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLED INFUSION OF A LIQUID</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>In a displacement system for controlled infusion of a liquid from a cartridge comprising a tubular vessel (1), which is at a rear end closed by a piston (3) which may be forced by a piston rod (8) moving into the vessel (1) in the axial direction thereof to press out the liquid through an outlet (2) arranged at a front end of the vessel (1), the piston rod (8) is provided as a flexible incompressible construction which is by a piston rod guide (9) behind the rear end of the cartridge deflected away from the axis of this cartridge, preferably 180°. The piston rod guide (9) has a guiding track comprising a curved part and linear parts at each end of the curved part ensuring that the piston rod is guided along a length (a) in the direction of the axis of the cartridge which length (a) is longer than the distance (b) between the two axes of the piston rod parts projecting from the piston rod guide. The guiding track is further elaborated to the very shape which the curved part of the piston rod will spontaneously adopt when its end portions are kept parallel.</p>				

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Displacement system for controlled infusion of a liquid.

The invention relates to displacement systems for controlled infusion of a liquid from a cartridge of the kind comprising a tubular vessel, which is at a rear end closed by a piston which 5 may be forced by a piston rod into the tube to press out the liquid through an outlet arranged at a front end of the tube.

Designated as pumps such displacement systems are used for therapeutic infusion of medicine, e.g insulin for diabetics to whom the natural production of insulin is simulated in this 10 way.

A commonly used pump structure comprises a housing with a cavity accommodating an infusion syringe cartridge having a piston and a piston rod by which the piston may be forced into the cartridge to press out the medicament in the cartridge 15 through an outlet at the end of the cartridge opposite the piston. Such infusion pumps, which are based on the technique known from syringes by which the dosage can be adjusted with very close accuracy, has many advantages. They are simple in their construction and a precise indication of the medicine 20 left in the cartridge may currently be obtained by monitoring the position of the piston in the cartridge, and in the same way the amount infused can be very precise controlled by controlling the distance of movement of the piston in the cartridge.

25 A heavy drawback by the pumps of the cartridge and piston type is the fact that at least one of the dimensions of the pump have to be at least more than two times the overall stroke of the piston in the cartridge as the cartridge has to be at least a little longer than this stroke and as space must be reserved 30 for the piston rod behind the cartridge when the piston in a new cartridge is in its rearmost position. Thereby a limit is set for the extent of the miniaturization which is aimed at to

make it as comfortable as possible to carry the pump during the activities of a day.

Consequently it is an object of the invention to provide a displacement system of the cartridge/piston type wherein this 5 drawback is avoided.

This is obtained by a displacement system of the kind mentioned in the ingress of this specification and which system is according to the invention characterized in that the piston rod is provided as a flexible incompressible construction and at a 10 position behind the rear end of the cartridge is deflected away from the axis of the cartridge.

The deflection of the piston rod away from the axis of the cartridge may be obtained by a piston rod guide being provided behind the rear end of the cartridge. The piston rod guide 15 governs the deflection of the piston rod so that this rod will only be deflected in the way determined by the guide.

Preferably the piston rod is deflected 180° so that it forms two parallel straight portions extending from the piston rod guide.

20 To ensure that the necessary deflecting forces on the piston rod are exerted by the guide alone so that the straight portions projecting from the guide are parallel without any need for deflecting forces on these projecting portion, the piston rod guide has a guide track having an upper curved part 25 and a lower linear part at each end of the curved part and having a length in the direction of the projecting parallel portions, which length taken from the ends of the guide track from which these portions projects to the centre of the piston rod at the top of the curved part is equal to or larger than 30 the distance between the axes of the projecting parallel portions.

It is also important that the piston rod is abutting the curved guiding surface all the way so that the spring effect of the piston rod does not cause any slack in the guiding as such a slack may result in an imprecise dose. This continuous abutment 5 is obtained by elaborating the curved part of the guide in accordance with the shape which the curved part of the piston rod will spontaneously adopt when its end portions are kept parallel.

The piston rod may be made flexible in several ways. By being 10 a flexible band stiffened by having an arcuate cross section the piston rod has one preferred mode of deflection as it will tend to deflect towards the concave side of the arcuate cross section. A special stiff piston rod may be obtained when two of the mentioned bands are combined with their convex sides 15 abutting each other over the distance between the piston and the point of deflexion. When the piston rod is deflected, the two bands are deflected in different directions away from each other as each band is deflected toward the concave side of its cross section. The piston rod guide must be accordingly 20 designed to ensure this splitting of the flexible piston rod.

Alternatively the piston rod may be a flexible helix with narrowly adjacent turns of windings. This piston rod has no preferred mode of deflection and may be guided in any direction by the piston rod guide.

25 From SE 449 776 is known a device in which a piston is moved by transmitting a pulling or pressing force through a flexible helix. During the working function of the device the provided flexible piston rod is used for exerting a pulling force on a piston to very slowly suck a fluid, preferably air, into a 30 cylinder ampoule to obtain a sample representative of the ambient air over a time. The piston rod may further be used for pressing the sample out of the cylinder ampoule. It is mentioned that the wire used and the helix must be so dimensioned that the straight portion of the piston rod does

not bend out when transmitting a pressing force through this portion and so that the windings are not pulled apart to leave lasting deformation of the helix when a pulling force is transmitted.

5 When the piston rod according to the invention is a flexible helix, care must be taken to ensure that the helix is so dimensioned that it may transmit an axial pressing force without being compressed and without bending out as any bending out means imprecise dosage. This is avoided by keeping the 10 coiling ratio, i.e. the ratio between the outer diameter of the helix minus the diameter of the wire and the diameter of the wire from which the helix is wound, within certain limits.

Also the initial tension, which keeps the windings of the helix abutting each other even when a pulling force is transmitted by 15 the helix, is of importance to the compressibility of the helix. The larger the initial tension the smaller the tendency for one winding to slip on the adjacent winding to start a bending out. Consequently the initial tension should be maximised.

20 As the pulling of the piston rod only serves the retraction of the piston rod to its initial position when a new cylinder ampoule is inserted, no heavy pulling force is transmitted and the demands to the precise transmission are low, but the transmission of pressing forces have to be very precise and no 25 compression or bending out of the piston rod can be tolerated.

These problems are all overcome by a piston rod wound as a helix with a coiling ratio $r_{coil} = \frac{d_{helix} - d_{wire}}{d_{wire}} < 5.0$ 30 where d_{helix} is the outer diameter of the wound helix, and d_{wire} is the diameter of the wire.

Preferably r_{coil} is kept $< 4,5$, more preferably $< 4,0$, and most preferably $< 3,5$.

Further the piston rod may be a series of interconnected chain links. Such a rod may have a preferred mode of deflection or may be freely deflected in any direction, all depending on the construction and the interconnection of the chain links.

- 5 When the piston rod is a flexible band this band may be cogged along one or both of its sides to provide a rack which may be engaged by a driving pinion to move the piston rod and consequently the piston into the vessel to press out an amount of the medicine in the cartridge.
- 10 When the piston rod is provided as a narrowly wound helix the windings of this helix may present an external thread, which may be engaged by an internally threaded nut element which will drive the piston rod into the cartridge when this nut element is rotated and is not axial displaceable in the housing
- 15 accommodating the cartridge, the piston rod guide, and a drive mechanism.

A piston rod constructed from interconnected chain links may be driven by either of the mentioned ways as each chain link may be provided by either a part of an external thread or with 20 teeth making it a part of a rack.

The driving force is preferably transmitted to the piston rod at a linear part thereof as the pitch of the rack or the thread are only unambiguously defined at such linear parts.

Preferably the driving force is transmitted to the piston rod 25 immediately behind the cartridge at a position between the cartridge and the piston rod guide. Thereby transmission through the non-linear part of the piston rod is avoided.

Alternatively a driving force may be applied by an advancing mechanism at the free end of the piston rod exerting a pressing 30 force in the axial direction of this free end. Thereby

inaccuracies caused by possible compressions in the piston rod are eliminated.

In the following the invention is described in further details with references to the drawing, wherein

5 Figure 1 schematically shows a known displacement system,

Figure 2 schematically shows a displacement system having a deflectable piston rod.

Figure 1 shows schematically a displacement system of the 10 conventional known kind. A cartridge 1 is at one end closed by a closure enabling the mounting of a catheter 2 communicating with a liquid medicine in the cartridge. At its other end the cartridge is closed by a piston 3 which by a piston rod 4 may be pressed into the cartridge to press out the liquid medicine 15 through the catheter 2. The pressure advancing the piston 3 in the cartridge 1 is transmitted to the end of the piston rod through a presser foot 5 which is advanced by a threaded drive spindle by having a bore with an internal thread engaging the thread of the drive spindle 6, which spindle as shown by the 20 arcuate arrow 7 is rotated by a not shown drive mechanism controlling the rate at which the medicine is pressed out through the catheter. The Cartridge 1 and the drive spindle 6 are mounted in a not show housing so that the may not be displaced in relation to each other. The presser foot 5 may 25 abut the end of the piston rod 4 or it may be secured to this end.

A displacement system according to the invention is shown in figure 2. This system comprises to some extent the same elements as do the system shown in figure 1 and these elements 30 are numbered as the corresponding elements in figure 1. However, a flexible piston rod 8 replaces the conventional stiff piston 4 rod of figure 1. Further a piston rod guide 9

is provided which guide deflects the piston rod 8 immediately outside the open end of the cartridge 1.

In the embodiment shown in figure 2 the piston rod 8 is deflected 180 so that the outer end of this flexible rod 8 runs parallel with the cartridge whereby the overall length of the device may be reduced to correspond to about the length of the cartridge and the deflecting piston rod guide 9.

The piston rod guide 9 is equipped with a guiding track conforming the outer contour of the bended or deflected piston rod 8 so that the deflection is guided and no bending of the rod 8 is possible except for the deflection defined by the guide 9.

The guiding track is guiding the piston rod over a length "a" which in the axial direction of the parallel ends of the rod 8 is as long as or longer than the distance "b" between the two axes of the parallel straight portions of the piston rod 8 projecting from the piston rod guide 9. Each end of the guiding track are linear along a distance "d" whereby it is ensured that no deflecting forces have to be exerted on the piston rod 8 outside the piston rod guide 9.

In the embodiment shown in figure 2 the driving force is exerted on the outer end of the deflected piston rod 8. The force is exerted in the axial direction of said outer end and due to the rod 8 being incompressible and the guide guiding the rod conforming with the profile of the flexible rod, the piston rod is displaced along its own axis round through the bending provided by the guide 9 to drive the piston 3 into the cartridge 1. The drive mechanism comprising a presser foot 5 acting on the free end of the piston rod 8 and a threaded spindle 6 engaging an internal thread in a bore in the presser foot 5 may be of any known type providing a rotation in the direction indicated by the arcuate arrow 7.

The flexible piston rod may be advanced by other mechanisms and the driving force may be transmitted to the flexible rod anywhere along its length without deviating from the scope of the invention.

Claims

1. A displacement system for controlled infusion of a liquid from a cartridge comprising a tubular vessel, which is at a rear end closed by a piston which may be forced by a piston rod moving into the vessel in the axial direction thereof to press out the liquid through an outlet arranged at a front end of the vessel, characterized in that the piston rod is provided as a flexible incompressible construction and at a position behind the rear end of the cartridge is deflected away from the axis 10 of this cartridge.
2. A displacement system according to claim 1, characterized in that a piston rod guide is provided behind the rear end of the cartridge.
3. A displacement system according to claim 2, characterized 15 in, that the piston rod guide defects the piston rod 180° so that parallel portions of the piston rod projects at one side at the piston rod guide.
4. A displacement system according to claim 3, characterized in that the piston rod guide has a guide track having an upper 20 curved part and a lower linear part at each end of the curved part and having a length in the direction of the projecting parallel portions, which length taken from the side of the piston rod guide from which these portions projects to the centre of the piston rod at the top of the curved part is equal 25 to or larger than the distance between the axes of the two extending parallel portions.
5. A displacement system according to claim 4, characterized in that the curved part of the guiding track is elaborated in accordance with the shape the curved part of the piston rod 30 will spontaneously adopt when its end portions are kept parallel.

6. A displacement system according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the piston rod is a flexible band stiffened by having a arcuate cross section providing the band with a convex and a concave surface.

5 7. A displacement system according to claim 1 or 2 characterized in that the piston rod comprises two flexible bands having arcuate cross sections and being so positioned that the band lies with their convex surfaces adjacent to each other between the piston and the point of deflexion.

10 8. A displacement system according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the piston rod is formed by a flexible helix with narrowly adjacent turns of windings.

9. A displacement system according to claim 8, characterized 15 in that

$$\text{the coiling ratio } r_{\text{coil}} = \frac{d_{\text{helix}} - d_{\text{wire}}}{d_{\text{wire}}} < 5.0$$

where d_{helix} is the outer diameter of the wound helix, and d_{wire} is 20 the diameter of the wire.

10. A displacement system according to claim 9, characterized in that $r_{\text{coil}} < 4,5$ more preferably < 4.0 and most preferably $< 3,5$.

11. A displacement system according to claim 1, 2 or 3, 25 characterized in that the piston rod is formed by a series of chain links.

12. A displacement system according to claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the one or both side edges of the bands 30 are cogged.

13. A displacement system according to claims 8, 9 or 10 characterized in that the windings of the helix provides an external thread.

14. A displacement system according to claim 11, characterized in that the chain links are provided with a cogging.

15. A displacement system according to claim 11, characterized in that the chain links are provided with an external thread.

5 16. A displacement system according to claim 12 or 14, characterized in that a piston rod drive is provided transmitting a drive force to the piston rod through a pinion engaging the cogging of the piston rod .

17. A displacement system according to claim 13 or 15,
10 characterized in that a piston rod drive is provided transmitting a drive force to the piston rod through a nut element having an internal thread engaging the external thread of the piston rod.

18. A displacement system according to claim 16 or 17
15 characterised in that the driving force is transmitted to the piston rod at a linear part of this rod.

19. A displacement system according to claim 18, characterized in that the driving force is transmitted to the piston rod at the part thereof lying between the rear end of the cartridge
20 and the piston rod guide.

20. A displacement system according any of the claims 1 - 11 characterized in that a driving force is exerted on the free, deflected end of the piston rod in the axial direction of this free, deflected end.

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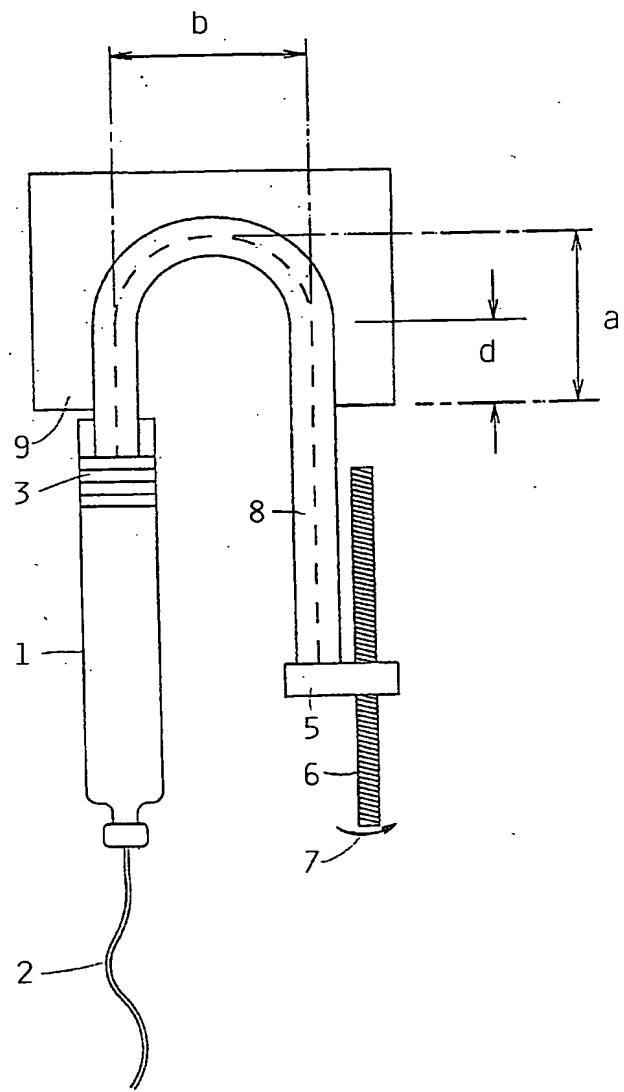
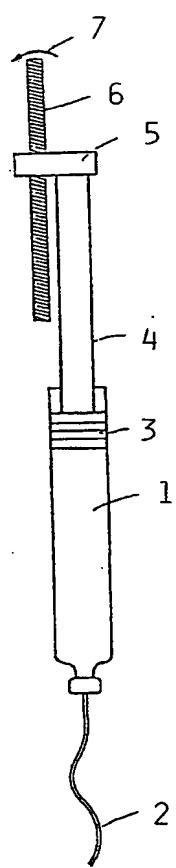


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/DK 94/00361
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: A61M 5/315

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: A61M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DIALOG: WPI, CLAIMS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US, A, 4493704 (ROBERT W. BEARD ET AL), 15 January 1985 (15.01.85), column 3, line 28 - line 48, figure 2	1-3,20
Y	column 3, line 28 - line 48 --	8,13,17,18
Y	DE, A1, 3331424 (LINDER, ERNST), 8 March 1984 (08.03.84), page 8, line 6 - line 19, figure 2 --	8,13,17,18
A	AT, B, 212625 (FIRMA H. HAUPTNER IN SOLINGEN), 27 December 1960 (27.12.60), page 1, line 28 - line 33, figures 1,4 -- -----	1-20

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US-A- 4493704	15/01/85	AU-B-	570418	17/03/88
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